

Academic Degree Programs Assessment
Assessment Plan

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Department of Anthropology

Master of Arts

July 2020

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1. Introduction

Anthropology is a dynamic, interdisciplinary, engaged field of study with world-class faculty at the highest level of research productivity. The Program conducts research and teaches human diversity present and past through the subdisciplines of Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, and Physical Anthropology. Our graduates go on to work and study in diverse fields, including PhD programs and professional schools, the private sector, the non-profit sector, state and federal government, education, consultancy firms, museums, and zoos. Our graduates routinely enter among the best Ph.D. programs in the country, including Johns Hopkins, the University of Illinois Champaign, Emory University, and the University of California system. The program is inherently international with graduate students performing original field research in diverse countries such as Madagascar, Peru, Bolivia, Norway, Tonga, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Indonesia to name a few.

Prior to 2013, the Department Chair assumed all duties including assessment, undergraduate advising, course scheduling, and budgeting. As a result, assessment prior to 2013 was not well planned. In 2013 the College supported the addition of an Assistant Chair who took over assessment as a primary duty. Between 2013 and 2017, we revised our assessment program which covers all four of our subfields upon which our graduate program is based: archaeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology. When the Assistant Chair became the Chair in fall 2019, no tenured faculty agreed to serve in that role. As a result, Dr. Kerry Sagebiel, an Instructor for our department, agreed to take over assessment duties. The Chair and Dr. Sagebiel met with faculty to modify the program, and additional revisions were made during the 2019-2020 academic year in response to comments we received from the University Assessment Panel and in consultation with staff from Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation.

2. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Learning Outcomes for the MA Program, Department of Anthropology

		Student Learning Outcomes
1	All subfields	Demonstrate a high level of competency in 1A) biological anthropology, 1B) linguistic anthropology, 1C) cultural anthropology and 1D) archaeology to gain entry-level employment related to that area or in settings where that knowledge is a useful ancillary asset.
1A	Biological Anthropology	Apply knowledge of evolutionary theory and evolutionary history to explain: a) the process of natural selection and the factors shaping the physical body, brains, and behavior of humans and non-human primates b) the ecology of human and non-human primates
1B	Linguistic Anthropology	Apply knowledge of anthropological and linguistic theory and research to explain: a) how language reflects human relationships, shapes interactions, and relates to cognition b) how linguistic diversity shapes human relationships and interactions
1C	Cultural Anthropology	Apply knowledge of anthropological theory and research to explain: a) how cultural diversity shapes human relationships and interactions b) the implications of bio-cultural diversity for contemporary society
1D	Archaeology	Apply knowledge of archaeological theory and research to explain: a) how past cultural, linguistic, and biological diversity has shaped human societies b) the implications of the past and the practice of archaeology for contemporary society
2	All subfields	Develop an original research project and prepare written summaries and reports on the project.
3	All subfields	Effectively communicate the results of a research project to peers or other professionals in an oral presentation.
4	All subfields	Comprehend a) basic statistical analyses (for archaeology and biological anthropology students) b) a second language (for cultural and linguistic students)
5	All subfields	Be prepared for employment in an area of anthropology.
6	All subfields	Be prepared to apply for an advanced degree.

3. Program-by-Baccalaureate Student Learning Outcomes Matrix

Not relevant for graduate program.

4. Anthropology Curriculum Map

Across sub-fields

COURSE	<i>SLO 1A: Biological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1B: Linguistic Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1C: Cultural Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1D: Archaeological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
ANTH 562. Collections Management			D	D	D			D	D
ANTH 699. Thesis Hours					P		P		
STATS 301. Elementary Statistics							D		
BIOS. 670 Biostatistical Analyses							P		
4 semester Foreign Language Sequence							D		

Note. Course supports the outcome at the B=beginning, D=Developing, or P=proficient level.

Archaeology

COURSE	<i>SLO 1A: Biological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1B: Linguistic Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1C: Cultural Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1D: Archaeological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
ANTH 510. Environmental Archaeology	D		D	D	D	D			D
ANTH 512. Native North America	D		D	D	D	D			D
ANTH 513. Illinois Archaeology	D		D	D	D				D
ANTH 514. Aztecs, Olmec, and Maya: The	D		D	D	D				D

COURSE	<i>SLO 1A: Biological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1B: Linguistic Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1C: Cultural Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1D: Archaeological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
Archaeology of Mesoamerica									
ANTH 515. Archaeology of the American Southwest	D		D	D	D				D
ANTH 517. Archaeology of South America	D		D	D	D				D
ANTH 518. Applied Archaeology	D		D	D				P	D
ANTH 519. Archaeological Ethics			D	D	D	D		P	D
ANTH 553. Archaeological Theory	D	D	D	P	D	D		D	D
ANTH 561. Methods in Archaeology	D		D	D	D			P	D
ANTH 569. Archaeology of Empires			D	D	D	D			D

Note. Course supports the outcome at the B=beginning, D=Developing, or P=proficient level.

Biological Anthropology

COURSE	<i>SLO 1A: Biological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1B: Linguistic Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1C: Cultural Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1D: Archaeological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
ANTH 540. Fossil Humans	P			D	D	D			D
ANTH 541. Sex and Gender in Primates	P				D	D			D
ANTH 543. Human Adaptation and Variation	P				D	D			D

COURSE	<i>SLO 1A: Biological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1B: Linguistic Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1C: Cultural Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1D: Archaeological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
ANTH 544. Primate Ecology and Conservation	P				D	D		P	D
ANTH 545. Primate Evolution	P				D	D			D
ANTH 546. The Human Skeleton	P				D	D		P	D
ANTH 547. Primate Anatomy	P				D	D		P	D
ANTH 549. Primates and Food	P				D	D			D
ANTH 554. Uses and Abuses of Evolutionary Theory	P		D		D	D			D

Note. Course supports the outcome at the B=beginning, D=Developing, or P=proficient level.

Cultural

COURSE	<i>SLO 1A: Biological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1B: Linguistic Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1C: Cultural Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1D: Archaeological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
ANTH 504. Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean			P		D	D			D
ANTH 507. Peoples and Cultures of Insular Southeast Asia			P		D	D			D
ANTH 508. Peoples and Cultures of Mainland Southeast Asia			P		D	D			D
ANTH 509. Cultures and Societies of the Middle East			P		D	D			D

COURSE	<i>SLO 1A: Biological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1B: Linguistic Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1C: Cultural Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1D: Archaeological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
ANTH 520. Waterworlds	D		P		D	D			D
ANTH 522. Gender in Southeast Asia	D	D	P		D	D			D
ANTH 523. Environmental Anthropology of the Middle East: Cultural and Political Ecologies	D		P		D	D			D
ANTH 525. Environmental Anthropology	D		P		D	D		D	D
ANTH 527. Economic Anthropology			P		D	D			D
ANTH 529X. International NGOs and Globalization			P		D	D		P	D
ANTH 550. Ethics and Research Design in Anthropology					D	D		P	D
ANTH 551. History and Theory of Anthropology	D	D	P	D	D	D			D
ANTH 560. Methods in Ethnography		D	P		D	D		P	D
ANTH 564. Disasters without Borders			P		D	D		P	D
ANTH 565. Medical Anthropology	D		P		D	D		D	D
ANTH 566. Resource Conflict and Environmental Peacebuilding	D		P		D	D		D	D
ANTH 567. Applied Anthropology		D	P		D	D		P	

COURSE	<i>SLO 1A: Biological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1B: Linguistic Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1C: Cultural Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1D: Archaeological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
ANTH 568. Anthropology of Gender	D	D	P		D	D			D

Note. Course supports the outcome at the B=beginning, D=Developing, or P=proficient level.

Linguistics

COURSE	<i>SLO 1A: Biological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1B: Linguistic Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1C: Cultural Theory</i>	<i>SLO 1D: Archaeological Theory</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
ANTH 532. Nature and Environment Across Cultures	D	P	P		D	D			D
ANTH 533. Fundamentals of Cognitive Anthropology	D	P	P		D	D			D
ANTH 535. Space in Language and Culture		P	P		D	D			D
ANTH 538. Cultural Models: The Language of Culture		P	P		D	D			D

Note. Course supports the outcome at the B=beginning, D=Developing, or P=proficient level

5. Assessment Methods and Criteria

Assessment Method	Description	Student Level Achievement	Program Level Target	When data is Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs
Writing assessment	Students are assigned a writing task in which they are to demonstrate their abilities to write well according to 5 criteria: Focus, Audience, Organization, Critical Thinking, and Presentation	A student will receive a score of 4 or better on each of the five performance criteria on the rubric	85% of all students will meet the student-level target	In the last third of each semester	Course instructor	1
Comprehensive Exam	Student takes an exam in each of the four subfields to test their broad knowledge of the discipline	100% pass by their second attempt	90% will pass on the first attempt; 100% will pass on the second attempt	Every semester	Exam Committee	1
Qualifying Exam	Students takes an exam in their subfield which covers core concepts	100% pass by their second attempt	90% will pass on the first attempt; 100% will pass on the second attempt	Every semester	Exam Committee	1
Submission of proposal to IRB or IACUC	Student completes their IRB or IACUC form for their thesis research project	Project is approved by the board by their second revision	100% of students research projects are approved	When student begins 699 credits	MA thesis advisor	2
Completion of thesis proposal	Student submits their MA thesis to the graduate school	Thesis is approved by all committee members with no or minor revisions	100% of students' theses are approved	At graduation	MA thesis advisor	2, 4
Oral defense of thesis	Student completes their oral defense of their MA thesis	Students pass their oral defense on their first attempt	100% of students pass	At defense	MA thesis advisor	3, 6
Oral presentation in class	Student presents the results of their class project to their peers and professor	Student receives a score of 8 on a scale of 10	90% score an 8 or higher	During class	Instructor of record	3
Statistics or Language class(es)	Students take STATS 301 Elementary Statistics or BIOS 670 Biostatistical Analyses, or the equivalent of 4 semesters of a Foreign Language	Receive a B+ or better	90% of all students pass these classes with a B+ or higher	At graduation	Instructor of record	4

Assessment Method	Description	Student Level Achievement	Program Level Target	When data is Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs
Alumni survey	Graduates are asked if they were able to compete effectively for available jobs	100% employed	85% perceive their degree prepares them for employment.	Based on alumni survey.	Alumni Association	5
Advisors contact graduates one-year after graduation	Graduates are asked if they were able to compete effectively for available jobs including admission to PhD programs with funded TA or GA lines.	100% employed	85% perceive their degree prepares them for employment	One year after graduation	Advisors	5
Admission to graduate programs	Students wishing to continue in a doctoral program or other advanced degree are admitted.	Student is admitted to advanced degree program	100% of students are admitted to advanced degree program	At graduation	MA thesis advisor	6

Assessment Method-by-Outcomes Matrix

Assessment Method	<i>SLO 1: Knowledge of concepts</i>	<i>SLO 2: Written Research</i>	<i>SLO 3: Oral Communication</i>	<i>SLO 4: Skills – statistics or language</i>	<i>SLO 5: Employment</i>	<i>SLO 6: Advanced Degree</i>
Writing assessment	F, D	F, D			F, I	
Comprehensive Exam	F, D				F, I	
Qualifying Exam	F, D	F, D			F, I	
Statistics or Language class(es)				F, D	F, I	
Oral presentation in class			F, D		F, I	
Submission of research proposal to IRB or IACUC		F, D			S, I	
Oral Defense of thesis			S, D		S, I	
Completion of thesis	S, D	S, D		S, D	S, I	
Alumni survey					S, D	
Advisors contact graduates					S, D	
Admission to advanced degree program	S, D	S, D	S, I	S, I		S, D

Note. F=formative assessment, S=summative assessment, D=direct assessment, and I=indirect assessment.